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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the relationships between human values and the psychological construct of world-mindedness. Fifty-one college students and 58 high school students in a town in the Pacific Northwest completed the Values Questionnaire (Schwartz, 1992, 94) and the Cross-cultural World-mindedness Questionnaire (Der-Karabetian, 1992). A stepwise multiple regression equation was computed with the value types of universalism, security, and power being significant predictors of world-mindedness. The results validate the psychological conceptualization of world-mindedness as a value issue. The implications of this type of global consciousness are discussed in terms of the maintenance of the world ecosystem, immigration trends, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. (Author/EH)

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Running Head: VALUES AND GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Values as Predictors of Global Consciousness

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Paper presented at the meetings of the 26th International Congress of Psychology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, August 17, 1996. Requests for reprints can be made to the first author at the Department of Psychology, Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, Idaho, 83501, U.S.A. or at dmayton@lcsc.edu.

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Abstract

This study assessed the relationships between human values and the psychological construct of world-mindedness. Respondents from the USA completed the Values Questionnaire (Schwartz, 1992, 1994) and the Cross-cultural World-mindedness Questionnaire (Der-Karabetian,1992). A stepwise multiple regression equation was computed with the value types of universalism, security, and power being significant predictors of world-mindedness. The results validate the psychological conceptualization of world-mindedness as a value issue. The implications of this type of global consciousness are discussed in terms of the maintenance of the world ecosystem, immigration trends, and the proliferation of nuclear weapon.

Values as Predictors of Global Consciousness

The maintenance of the ecosystem (acid rain, global warming etc), immigration throughout the world, and the possible proliferation of nuclear weaponry are examples of issues which are relevant to all inhabitants of our planet. Der-Karabetian (1992) has pointed to the "need to look at social and political events globally " (p. 293). He refers to this global world view as world-mindedness. The possession of world-mindedness allows individuals to perceive the world as a complete system and feel an affiliation with the rest of humanity.

Research on the nature of world-mindedness has established this concept as a valid cross-cultural construct across ten countries (Der-Karabetian, 1992). In addition world-mindedness has been found to be associated with many social issues. In the 1980's world-mindedness was found to be correlated with a heightened awareness of the nuclear threat (Der-Karabetian,1992; Der-Karabetian, Mangarai, Uvais, & Watanabe, 1994) and anti-nuclear activism (Der-Karabetian,1992). World-mindedness has also been found to be related to an awareness of environmental hazards and environmental activism (Der-Karabetian & Stephenson, 1991; Mayton, 1993).

Der-Karabetian (1992) portrays world-mindedness as a general value orientation. This is justifiable as values are enduring prescriptive

or proscriptive beliefs that specific modes of conduct or end-states of existence are preferred to other modes of conduct or end-states (Rokeach, 1973). Schwartz and Bilsky (Schwartz & Bilsky 1987, 1990, Schwartz, 1992, 1994) have built on the value research of Rokeach and his colleagues (e.g. Ball-Rokeach, Rokeach, Grube, 1984; Rokeach,1973, 1979) and put forth a theory of the universal structure of human values which seems to be very pertinent to our understanding of world-mindedness. Schwartz (1992,1994) notes that values are derived from three universal requirements characteristic of the human condition. These are (1) the needs of individuals as biological organisms, (2) the requisites of coordinated social interaction, and (3) the survival and welfare needs of groups. This third characteristic seems most relevant to world-mindedness. Schwartz (1992,1994) has also identified ten universal motivational types of values which are derived from these conditions. The ten universal value types are power, tradition, hedonism, stimulation, security, conformity, self-direction, benevolence, universalism, and achievement.

This study assessed the relationships between human values and the psychological construct of world-mindedness. It is hypothesized that the self-transcendent value type of universalism will be significantly related to the global consciousness inherent in the concept of world-mindedness.

Values which comprise the universalism value include social justice, broad mindedness, a world at peace, wisdom, unity with nature, protecting the environment, and equality.

Method

Participants

Students at a small state-supported college (n = 51) and a high school (n = 58) in the same town in the Pacific Northwest. Females and males made up 62.3% and 37.7% of the respondents, respectively. The sample was predominately Caucasian (95%).

Instrumentation

The Values Questionnaire (Schwartz, 1992) is a 56 item instrument in which respondents indicate how important values are for them as a guiding principle in their lives, on a nine point scale. Subscores were obtained for the ten universal motivational types of values by averaging the responses to the individual values within the respective types. Subscores could vary from -1 up to 7 with higher scores indicating a higher priority placed on the value type.

The Cross-cultural World-mindedness scale (CCWMS, Der-Karabetian, 1992) is a 26 item instrument. Respondents in this study indicated their level of agreement to the items on a six-point Likert scale. A total world-mindedness score was obtained by averaging the

responses to the individual items following appropriate reversal of selected items. Scores could vary from 1 to 6 with higher scores indicating a higher level of world-mindedness or global consciousness.

Procedures

This study utilized written survey methodology to assess the relationships between values and global consciousness. Respondents completed two instruments during a single forty-five minute session. They were surveyed during the 1992-1993 school year.

Results

The respondents exhibited mid-range levels of world-mindedness with a mean = 3.43 and a standard deviation of .41. Pearson correlational coefficients were computed across the ten value types and world-mindedness scores. These coefficients are presented in Table 1. A significant positive relationship was identified between world-mindedness and the universalism value type. A significant negative relationship was found between world-mindedness and the power value type.

Insert Table 1 about here

A stepwise multiple regression equation was computed predicting

world-mindedness using the ten value type scores as predictors. The results of this analysis is presented in Table 2. The first variable entering the regression equation was the universalism type. This value type plus the value types of security and power explained about 35% of the variance in world-mindedness.

Insert Table 2 about here

Discussion

The value types of universalism, security, and power were identified as significant predictors of world-mindedness. Theses results validate the psychological conceptualization of world-mindedness as a value issue. Due to the strong relationship to the universalism value type, it seems clear that world-mindedness, as measured by the CCWMS, does reflect the understanding, appreciation, tolerance and protection for the welfare of all people and for nature.

The value types of power and security had negative loadings in the regression equation. Power values (concern for social status and prestige and concern for the control or dominance over people and resources) and security values (concern for the safety, harmony and stability of society, of relationships, and of self) seem to attenuate world-mindedness.

The implications of this type of global consciousness are germane to many social issues facing our planet today. Der-Karabetian, Mangarai, Uvais, & Watanabe (1994) have speculated that changes in world-mindedness might precipitate perceptions and behaviors conducive to an increased awareness of planetary threats and activism to reduce these threats. Given the value relationships identified here and the value change literature (e.g. Ball-Rokeach, Rokeach, Grube, 1984; Rokeach,1973, 1979), strengthening the universalism values of social justice, broad mindedness, a world at peace, wisdom, unity with nature, protecting the environment, and equality has the potential to increase world-mindedness.

Since concern for the maintenance of the world ecosystem has been shown to be related to world-mindedness in previous empirical studies (Der-Karabetian & Stephenson, 1991; Mayton, 1993), raising the priorities placed on the universalism values may impact environmental consciousness and activism. Likewise, dealing with the problems the world is facing with immigration trends and the proliferation of nuclear weaponry might be mediated with an understanding of the values/world-mindedness issues.

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Table 1

Correlations Between Value Types and World-Mindedness

Value Type	World-Mindedness
Power	-.33 **
Tradition	-.03
Hedonism	-.12
Stimulation	-.18
Security	-.19
Conformity	-.03
Self-Direction	.12
Benevolence	.13
Universalism	.47 **
Achievement	-.18

Table 2

Stepwise Multiple Regression Results

Predicting World-Mindedness from Value Types

Value Type Predictors	Beta Weight
Universalism	.511
Security	-.273
Power	-.182
Constant	3.176

$R = .592$ $R^2 = .351$

$F = 17.46$, $p < .0001$